

22. Threats:

No immediate threats are known. The soils, while not mapped in high detail, are indicated as being mostly of the Pungo series, a peat soil considered unsuitable for agriculture due to its woodiness (Barnes, 1981 and pers. comm., 1982). Ingram and Otte (1982) indicate peat depths from 0-8 feet in the natural area; but the deeper peats are relatively limited in extent and probably will not be subject to future mining due to their close association with the marshes and Callaghan Creek. US Army Corps of Engineers regulatory authority over dredging and filling in wetlands applies to the entire natural area.

23. Management and Preservation Recommendation:

Acquisition of this wetland natural area, which is not immediately threatened, is a lower priority than acquisition of more significant and more severely threatened natural areas along the Dare/Hyde County line. Protective ownership of the Roanoke Marshes is still a worthy goal, however. The North Carolina Coastal Federation, Inc., or a similar wetlands trust, is perhaps best suited to be the ultimate holder of the natural area.

Little management will be needed. Exclusion and suppression of wildfire should be avoided, since reduced fire frequency would shift pocosin (and marsh) communities toward greater dominance by shrubs. Any area dedicated to conservation will be enhanced by the addition of buffer lands and corridors connecting natural lands elsewhere in the county.